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**Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership (GBP)  
Steering Group Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 2pm to 4pm**

**[In-person]**

**Attendees:**

<b>Independent Chair:</b>	Joan Aitken	(JA)
<b>Glasgow City Council:</b>	Christine Francis	(CF)
	Chris Paterson	(CP)
	Deborah Paton	(DP)
	Harjinder Gharyal	(HG)
	Lindsay Richardson	(LR)
	Rabeya Begum	(RB)
	Sophie Batty	(SB)
	Stephen Macleod	(SML)
	Steve Gray	(SGR)
<b>East Dunbartonshire Council:</b>	Thomas McMenamin	(TM)
<b>Renfrewshire Council:</b>	Mark Higginbotham	(MH)
<b>South Lanarkshire Council:</b>	Stuart Laird	(SL)
<b>West Dunbartonshire Council:</b>	Gail MacFarlane	(GMF)
<b>SPT:</b>	Bruce Kiloh	(BK)
	Gordon Dickson	(GDK)
<b>First Bus:</b>	Duncan Cameron	(DC)
	Linda Shields	(LS)
<b>McGill's Buses:</b>	Alex Hornby	(AH)
<b>Sustrans:</b>	Matthew Davis	(MD)
<b>West Coast Motors:</b>	Murray Rogers	(MR)
<b>Transport Scotland:</b>	Craig Cameron	(CC)
<b>Bus Users Group:</b>	Greig Mackay	(GM)

**Apologies:**

Alastair Scott, Renfrewshire Council  
Donald Booth, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
Gerard Hannah, Renfrewshire Council  
Fiona Doherty, Stagecoach  
Ralph Roberts, McGill's Buses

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JA welcomed attendees to the meeting</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>National Transport Awards 2023 (Transport Times)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JA congratulated CF and her GCC colleagues as Winner of Exemplary Approach to Active Travel &amp; Public Space</li> <li>• FirstBus and McGills were congratulated on their respective successes in the UK Bus Awards held in London in November.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several corrections made in the draft minutes</li> <li>• The minutes of the previous meeting were then approved and are to be uploaded onto the Glasgow City Council (GCC) webpage</li> <li>• Arrange a date for bus finance seminar for Elected Members across the Glasgow City Region in January 2024 (via MS Teams); officers from adjoining local authorities to invite their own Elected Members to the event once a Teams link is generated.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SML</b></p> <p><b>JA/SML</b></p> <p><b>LAs</b></p>
4.	<p><b>The use of language when speaking about bus travel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JA as Chair highlighted the adverse impact use of negative language can have on perceptions of bus travel. She highlighted the dedicated daily commitment of drivers and others and the actual extent of services. Casual comment that services/companies are “rubbish” detracts from all the good work and efforts on part of many to deliver in what can be adverse operating circumstances. Discussion ensued. AH highlighted the messaging of CPT Wales - “Growing the bus network by over a third”.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline Business Cases (OBCs) – still awaiting decision from Transport Scotland (TS); GCC asked to undertake economic assessment of quick wins</li> <li>• Virtual loop signal upgrades planned on a section of Paisley Road West next to Seaward Street – works to be carried out in January 2024</li> <li>• Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund (BPRDF) bus lanes on Bothwell Street and Paisley Rod West to be made permanent.</li> <li>• TS working with GCC and their external consultants on the climate change impact element of each OBC before they go to the TS Evaluation Panel for consideration</li> <li>• Paisley Town Centre – minor changes to the plans; contributions made towards signal upgrades at the Glasgow Road/Mill Street junction to improve pedestrian access. Roundabout work under public consultation – McGills and BUS Scotland (GM) will work to show benefit to public bus users and thus to businesses.</li> <li>• GCC also provided an overview of some other non-BPF funded bus improvement work ongoing including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 new bus lane camera enforcement cameras to be operational in Feb /Mar 24</li> <li>○ Improvement works to Hope Street: Contract to commence in Jan 24. The extent of the works will be between Argyle Street and West George Lane which will include widening of the west footway and reinstating with natural stone materials, resurfacing of the carriageway and upgrades to the bus stops including superstop style bus shelter &amp; RTPI. New traffic signals are also planned and the Hope Street / St Vincent Street junction.</li> <li>○ Pollok Roundabout Design– Work is ongoing looking at options to signalise the roundabout</li> <li>○ City Wide bus stop improvements funding to improve accessibility at a couple of bus stops on Sauchiehall Street &amp; Royston Road</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>GCC</b> <b>GCC</b> <b>GCC</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>BPF – Strategic Bus Network Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Network Plan prepared by external consultants identifies areas where improvements and investments could be made</li> <li>• Key elements of report will be useful as a technical research tool to inform and develop a BSIP plan</li> <li>• Report was submitted to TS as funder and is intended to be used by GBP members in developing network including with reference to mobility hubs, park &amp; ride, bus stations, managed motorways etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CP/DP</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Transport Scotland (TS) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSIP and Franchising powers came into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023; guidance will be provided by TS in 2024; new regulations on information provision to be laid out in Parliament this week</li> <li>• BSIP guidance expected to be available in Spring 2024</li> </ul>	<p><b>TS</b></p>

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<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Bus Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital funding has been issued to local authorities by Transport Scotland</li> <li>• Resource funding was a competitive first-come first-served process, and SPT were successful in a regional bid. Two pieces of work being commissioned including looking at the 2019 Act options, timelines and information provision and to be completed by end of the current financial year</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>SPT</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>SPT update including Zone Card presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDK circulated the Ticketing Update paper presented to SPT's <a href="#">Strategy &amp; Programmes Committee</a> on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023</li> <li>• Regional Transport Strategy Strathclyde Regional bus Strategy – update on the options appraisal going to the Partnership on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023; further engagement with local authorities and operators over the next few months</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10.</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>c)</b></p>	<p><b>Glasgow City Council (GCC)</b></p> <p><b>GCC Transport Strategy Spatial Delivery Framework (SDF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation was live for eight weeks; responses received from wide range of stakeholders</li> <li>• Update on GTS SDF expected to go to Committee in January 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Smarter Choices Smarter Places Funding – enforcement and behavioural change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by RB and SB from GCC Sustainable Transport team on bus enforcement and behaviour change campaign to discourage parking at bus stops and on bus lanes. Discussion and feedback from GBP offered – emphasis on the people affected by inconsiderate parking.</li> <li>• Campaign messaging through number of communication channels up until the end of March 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>GCC/operators working group on road closures/events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First meeting to be set up in early 2024</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>CP</b></p> <p align="center"><b>CF</b></p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Update from other Council members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council: looking to take on decriminalized parking enforcement powers – application made</li> <li>• East Dunbartonshire Council: Signalisation project at Canniesburn Toll underway</li> <li>• South Lanarkshire Council: Lanark interchange and looking to enhance this – procurement underway; bus priority measures along a few corridors; new Hairmyres railway station improvements including P&amp;R</li> <li>• Renfrewshire Council: looking to introduce real time passenger information along Neilston Road</li> </ul>	

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<b>12.</b>	<b>GlasGo Bus Alliance Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FirstBus offering free bus services on Nightbus services on Hogmanay</li><li>• Alliance with GCC (Councillor Millar), SPT &amp; other stakeholders recently launched campaign to increase use of public transport during the festive season “Choose public transport”.</li><li>• Tripper ticket now available on multi-operator apps; usage has increased since the launch</li></ul>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Overture from DF Concerts on public transport and events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DF Concerts have expressed a desire via GCC to get more people to large events via public transport. Explore ways to enhance communications between events organisers and SPT and operators to enhance public transport offer for events. MR observing that this was a consideration for zone card working.</li></ul>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Proposed dates for 2024 GBP Steering Group meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (in-person) 2pm – 4pm</li><li>• Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024</li><li>• Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</li><li>• Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024</li><li>• Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</li><li>• Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024</li></ul>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>	